

MENOMINEE INDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

453.34 Exhibit

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT IMPETIGO

DESCRIPTION

A contagious, common bacterial skin infection that affects the superficial layers of the skin. It usually involves the skin of the face, arms and legs. Impetigo can affect all ages, but is most common in infants and children.

Frequent Signs and Symptoms

- A red rash with many small blisters. Some blisters contain pus, and yellow crusts form when they break. The blisters don't hurt, but they may itch.
- Slight fever (sometimes).

Causes

Staphylococcal or streptococcal (or combination) bacteria growing in the upper skin layers.

Risk Increases With

- Skin that is sensitive to sun and irritants, such as soap and makeup.
- Poor nutrition.
- Illness that has lowered resistance.
- Warm, moist weather.
- Crowded or unsanitary living conditions.
- Poor hygiene.

Preventive Measures

- Bathe daily with soap and water.
- Keep fingernails short. Don't scratch impetigo blisters.
- If there is an outbreak in the family, urge all members to use antibacterial soap.
- Use separate towels for each family member, or substitute paper towels temporarily.
- Don't share razors with other people.

Expected Outcomes

Curable in 7-10 days with treatment.

Possible Complications

- Penetration of the infection to deeper skin layers (ecthyma or cellulitis). This may cause scarring. Treatment is the same as for impetigo.
- Acute glomerulonephritis (kidney disorder).

TREATMENT

General Measures

- Diagnostic tests may include laboratory skin culture to identify the germ causing the infection.
- Follow the suggestions listed under Preventive Measures.
- Scrub lesions with gauze and antiseptic soap. Break any pustules. Remove all crusts, and expose and cleanse all lesions. If crusts are difficult to remove, soak them in warm soapy water and scrub gently.
- Cover impetigo sores with gauze and tape to keep hands away from them.
- Treat new lesions the same way, even if you are not sur they are impetigo.
- Separate and boil bed linen, if possible, and towels, clothes and other items that have touched sores.
- Men should shave around sores on the face, not over them. Use an aerosol shaving cream and change razor blades each day. Don't use a shaving brush; it may harbor germs.

Medications

- Antibiotic ointments may be prescribed.
- Oral antibiotics may be prescribed.

Activity

No restrictions.

Diet

No special diet.

NOTIFY OUR OFFICE IF

- You or your child has symptoms of impetigo.
- Fever occurs.
- The sores continue to spread or don't begin to heal in 3 days, despite treatment.

APPROVED: May 2000

REVISED: January 9, 2006